

ITW



Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

(U.S. National Stage of PCT/JP2005/000540)

Confirmation No. : Not Yet Assigned

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Amendment
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98 and supplemental to the Information Disclosure Statement that was previously filed on July 3, 2006, Applicants hereby bring to the attention of the Examiner a Chinese Office Action dated December 28, 2007, with respect to patent family member Chinese Patent Application No. 2005800014111, in which the following documents were cited:

- (1) Japanese Patent Publication No. HEI 11-354089 A, together with an English language Abstract thereof; and
- (2) Chinese Patent Publication No. CN 1465109 A, together with patent family member U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0180582 A1.

The relevance of these documents, as ascertained with respect to the Chinese claims by the Chinese Examiner, is set forth in the Chinese Office Action.

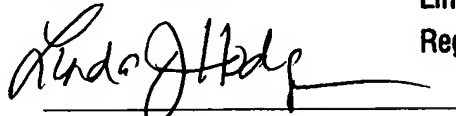
Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. Copies of the above-noted foreign documents, including the noted English language Abstract, are attached hereto, and all of the documents are listed on an attached Form PTO-1449. Copies of the Chinese Office Action and an English language translation thereof are also attached hereto. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form, and to return a copy of the completed Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application.

Applicants note that an Office Action on the merits has not issued in the present application, and thus, no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Katsumi KOZU et al.

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